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C!N

Noble Causes

Noble Causes Will Be Back in Five

...Years, that is!

No, the acclaimed family superhero drama by creator/writer *Jay Faerber* isn't going away for five years. It is, however, jumping ahead five years in the lives of its central characters—and as readers are about to learn, a lot of things can happen in half-a-decade!

Faerber offered ***Comic Shop News*** a synopsis of the series and a look at the changes that readers will find in ***Noble Causes #32,*** the first "five years later" issue. "***Noble Causes*** basically follows a family of world-famous super-heroes, The Nobles," Faerber said. "In the past, the angle of the book was that these heroes were *so* famous that they didn't even have to actually fight crime or save the world anymore (sort of like movie stars that no longer act, or pop stars that never actually sing). Instead, the book focused on their interpersonal relationships and the drama contained therein. It was structured a bit like a soap opera, with characters having hidden agendas, rivalries, love triangles, etc.

"Starting with ***Noble Causes #32,*** the book jumps ahead five years, and finds the family rededicating themselves to actively fighting crime and saving the world and the book chronicles those efforts, while the 'backstage drama' is still going strong as well."

What led to the decision to jump ahead five years between #s 31 and 32? What's happened in those intervening years? "The decision to move the timeline forward was really born out of a desire to make the book as accessible as possible to new readers. I've been fortunate in that ***Dynamo 5,*** my other series, seems to have clicked with a lot of people, so I want them to feel comfortable picking up ***Noble Causes*** for the first time. By shaking things up to this degree, established readers and newcomers will be on even footing," Faerber explained.

"As for what's happened in the missing five years—that's something we'll reveal slowly, as time goes on. One thing that's *immediately* apparent is that Doc and Gaia (the married couple at the head of the family) have divorced, and Doc has remarried a super-heroine named Olympia, who has two super-powered children of her own. The 'new' Noble family—comprised of Doc, Olympia, and their various children—make up the new core cast of the book. Some Nobles from the previous incarnation will be missing, but we'll check in on everyone eventually."

As an ensemble drama, ***Noble Causes*** has always spotlighted a large cast of characters; which original cast members from the earlier run will be returning... and which ones won't? "From the original cast, we're keeping Doc, his son Rusty, his daughter Zephyr, and his pseudo-son Frost (Frost was conceived by Gaia and Doc's doppleganger from an alternate dimension), as well as Zephyr's husband Slate Blackthorne (a member of a family of super-villains), and Celeste, Rusty's ex-wife. Olympia brings along her two children, Surge and Minutiae.

"Doc's other son, Race, and his wife, Liz, are gone, as are Gaia and Krennick, a friend of the family."

Who are the villains of this saga--outsiders or members of the family? "A little bit of both,"Faerber said. "There are some full-fledged super-villains running around, but the Nobles are also plagued by internal conflict, amplified by the 'mixed family' we've got going on.

"Surge, in particular, is a bit antagonistic towards the rest of the family, and while Doc has made great strides in the 'father of the year' category, he's still not completely comfortable interacting with people. He'd be much happier sitting in his lab. I think the book offers up a nice combination of internal and external conflicts."

In addition to the Nobles, Faerber has always balanced the cast with non-super-powered characters, and that will continue after the jump. "The non-powered members include Amy Wells, a college student who's dating Surge. She's 'the girl next door' who really wishes people would stop comparing her to Liz Donnelly (the 'girl next door' who dated Race Noble in the original series).

"We've also got Celeste's new husband, a guy in his eighties who used to be a super-hero called Colonel Comet. Now he's confined to a wheelchair, eating creamed corn and grousing about the good old days. The Colonel (as people call him) is attended to by Daniel, a male nurse employed by the Noble family."

Will Faerber continue to offer an "outsiders looking in" view of the Nobles, as he did in the series' early days, or will that change with the revamp? "In the past, Liz Donnelly was the 'stranger in a strange land' for the series, and served as the focal point of the book. But now, I'm taking a different approach, and there is no 'reader surrogate.' Instead, we're just getting a look inside the family with no default character to empathize with. It should be interesting!"

Noble Causes was one of the first series to blend the complex interpersonal relationships of a contemporary television ensemble drama with the dynamics of a superhero series. So does Faerber see this as a superhero series with elements of family drama, or a family drama with superheroic elements—or is it something else entirely? "That's a tough question," Faerber said. "in the past, the book was a family drama with super-hero elements, no doubt about it. But now, I think it's split down the middle -- half super-hero series / half family drama."

Yildiray Cinar, artist of ***Noble Causes*** for the past few issues, will stay with the book after its five-year flash-forward—and that's great news as far as Faerber is concerned. "Yildiray jumped on board with issue #27, and I count my blessings every day that he's on the book. He's the *perfect* ***Noble Causes*** artist. He's great with action, he's great with small, quiet moments, and he can pack a page full of detail, so I can cram lots of story into every issue."

Is Cinar capable of working on a monthly schedule? "***Noble Causes #32*** comes out in March, and we're already working on issue #34 as I write this," Faerber said. "Yildiray's really fast, and I'm pretty confident he can do a full twelve issues a year. The book is planned as a monthly ongoing, but if we need to skip a month here and there to keep the book on schedule, we'll do that."

For readers who'd like an opportunity to catch up on the Nobles' backstory as the new series jumps ahead five years, Faerber and Image Comics offer two different options: seven volumes of trade paperbacks reprinting the various miniseries and oneshots along with the first twenty-five issues of the current series; or the more affordable ***Noble Causes Archives,*** two hefty black and white volumes that reprint *every* ***Noble Causes*** issue, from the introductory oneshot through ***Noble Causes #31.***

Will there be any extras in the black-and-white volumes, which are slated to reach comic shops in the two month period prior to the release of ***Noble Causes #32?*** "No bonus material of any kind," Faerber said. "It's just a straight collection of the existing work. I think there might be a pin-up here and there and a one-page editorial by me, but that's it. My goal is to let readers enjoy the entire series to date at an extremely affordable price."

Noble Causes #32, a full-color $3.50 comic by *Jay Faerber, Yildiray Cinar, & Ron Riley,* is scheduled for late March release. ***Noble Causes Archives Volume One,*** a $19.99 trade paperback reprinting the various miniseries and oneshots as well as ***Noble Causes #s 1-12,*** is scheduled for late January release; ***Noble Causes Archives Volume Two,*** a $19.99 trade paperback reprinting ***Noble Causes #s 13-31*** and ***Noble Causes: Extended Family Secrets #s 1 & 2,*** follows in late February. The seven color trade paperback reprinting all the stories up through ***Noble Causes #25*** are currently available; the monthly series and all the trade paperbacks are published by Image Comics.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Comic Shop Newsarama

Produced by Comic Shop News in cooperation with Matt Brady and newsarama.com

Bagley Makes His Mark at DC

For more than twenty years, *Mark Bagley* has been almost exclusively a Marvel Comics talent—but that all changes in 2008, as Bagley has signed an exclusive contract with DC!

While neither Bagley nor DC were ready to discuss exactly what project he would be working on, the talented artist did talk to ***Comic Shop News*** about his change of publishers, explaining what led to the change. "After my run on ***Ultimate Spider-Man***, I really wasn't sure where I was going to land," Bagley said. "I didn't want to do miniseries after miniseries and, though Marvel offered me choice of projects, there really wasn't anything that really felt right for me.

"I got a call from a friend at DC, and he had the idea for something that really lit me up and suited my set of skills perfectly. I'm leaving Marvel for no other reason than it's the right time to play in another sandbox."

What DC characters is Bagley most eager to illustrate? "Oh, the obvious ones of course—Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman. I've always loved Kirby's Fourth World characters, Captain Marvel, and The Martian Manhunter. Really, though, it's more about the team I'm working with. Gimme a quality editorial team, and some talented co-creators and I'm a happy camper!..."

While the bulk of Bagley's work has been produced for Marvel, he has done a book for DC in the past—and he has had an opportunity to illustrate the Dark Knight. How'd those books come about? "The ***Batman/Spider-Man*** team up was sort of a no brainer—I was doing ***Amazing Spider-Man*** at the time, so I guess I was the obvious choice from Marvel's point of view. I was thrilled to get to do it, and I think it stands the test of time pretty well.

"The Sapphire story I did [for the ***Power Company*** launch] was the result of *Kurt Busiek* giving me a call. He and I have always enjoyed collaborating with each other. To be honest, the few other things I've done for DC were so rare that I don't remember how they fell into my lap."

Leaving Marvel has to be a major event for Bagley, who was at Marvel for a long time—a longer continuous run, in fact, than almost any artist working for Marvel today. "A long time is an *understatement*," Bagley replied. "I worked almost exclusively for them for about twenty-one years. I think my first work for Marvel was some ***New Universe*** stuff that was published in 1986...I think.

"Marvel has always been a dream place for me to work. I've had really very few negative experiences there. Marvel has great characters, and for the most part quality people. My last Marvel work is the ***Mighty Avengers*** story arc that's in stores now. I'm also working on a few special ***Ultimate Spider-Man*** issues with *Brian Bendis* that have filled out the end of my contract (I love me some Brian!)."

How'd Marvel take the news that Bagley wasn't signing up for another stint with them? "I was really worried about burning some very important bridges behind me—but with some great advice from a couple of guys, I think I handled it fairly well. The guys a Marvel were sad to see me go but really wished me well (and they made a *really* nice offer to me) and have said that I'd be welcomed back any time. It's really great having that kind of good will following you."

During his tenure at Marvel, Bagley became one of the most prolific artists at Marvel, producing as many as twenty-four comics' worth of art in some years. Is he looking forward to tackling that level of workload at DC? "'Looking forward to it' may not be the proper term for it," Bagley joked. "I love my work, and three quarters of my workday is just me having fun, and then discipline kicks in. I'm really planning on knocking it back a bit though, I really want to enjoy some of the other parts of my life right now...but who knows? I sometimes have a hard time saying no."

While Bagley won't reveal what his next project will be, he did reveal that "my old buddy *Kurt Busiek* and I are together again for what looks like a really great project. I'm also really happy that *Art Thibert* will be inking me . He did a bang-up job when he and I worked together on ***Ultimate Spider-Man***. I just got back from a three-day creative meet with *Dan DiDio, Mike Carlin, Liz Gehrlien, Kurt,* and *Ian Sattler*. It went great—they're a bunch of great people with a real passion for what they do.

During his lengthy tenure at Marvel, Bagley set a couple of records: he and *Brian Bendis* produced the longest consecutive creative run on any Marvel superhero title (110 issues of ***Ultimate Spider-Man)***, and he has illustrated more Spider-Man comics than any other living artist. Is he going to miss Spider-Man? "Of course! I look at what *Stuart Immonen* is getting to draw right now and all I can do is think, 'Man that would be fun!' But I really think it was the right time to step away. Who knows—a few years from now I might be back. I'd have bet money after my run on ***Amazing*** that I'd never draw Spidey again (and love the job)."

Has he started working on his new DC project yet? "I'm still finishing up a bit of Marvel work, but I have done a few pages of my new project, and I'm really having a blast doing it."

So what is this mysterious project? Keep checking in with ***Comic Shop News*** over the next few weeks and all will be revealed!

CSNsider

•***Hulk #1***, the series relaunch by *Jeph Loeb & Ed McGuinness*, has sold out from Marvel—and as you might expect, a second printing is on the way and should be in comic shops at about the same time as this issue of ***CSN***. The second printing will feature a wrap-around cover by *Ed McGuinness* taken from a crucial interior panel of the book. "Ed and I have been wanting to take the reins of the Hulk book since coming to Marvel," Loeb said, "and to have the fans, readers and retailers respond in this way is the perfect gift to end the week."

•ADV is cancelling ***Newtype USA***, its popular manga-anime magazine, with the current issue—but they'll be replacing it right away with a new publication, ***PiQ***, that will expand its focus to include comics, videogames, movies, television, technology, and digital media as well as manga and anime. However, it will *not* include content from the Japanese version of ***Newtype***, which has been a core element of the US version.

•***Ultimate Human #1***, the *Warren Ellis-Cary Nord* miniseries depicting a faceoff between the Ultimate Hulk and Ultimate Iron Man, has sold out; at press-time, Marvel has no plans to go back to press.

Coming Comics—DC in April

General Zod! Bizarro World! The Legion of Super-Heroes! What's next for the Man of Steel? Superman attempts to get back to his life as Clark Kent, but when you're the world's greatest hero there's trouble around every corner, behind every planet and within every dimension. Witness the drama in ***Action Comics #864*** by *Geoff Johns, Gary Frank, & Jonathan Sibal.*

The new creative team of *Rick Remender, Pat Olliffe, & John Stanisci* make their debut in ***The All-New Atom #22***. Frozen in time, powerless and trapped in the subatomic world of the Genesis Bug, The Atom learns the truth of his involvement in the mysterious disappearances in Ivy Town, forcing the Mighty Mite to choose between saving the displaced faces from his past — or his own life!

In ***Batman #676***, *Grant Morrison, Tony Daniel, & Sandu Florea* present an epic story that will change the legend of the Dark Knight forever... and end someone's life! Who will live? Who will die? Who will be Batman? The answers will be found in "Batman R.I.P."

Acclaimed artist *Yoshinori Natsume* makes his American comics debut with ***Batman: Death Mask***, a prestige format miniseries that presents an original Batman manga tale! There's a new serial killer in Gotham, and he may have ties to the training Bruce Wayne

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acquired as a young man in Japan. Does the murderer know Bruce Wayne is the Batman?

Jai Nitz, Mike Norton, & Trevor Scott present a special extra-sized Spanish-language tale in ***Blue Beetle #26*** (but don't worry, the English-language script is included as bonus material). Blue Beetle takes Traci 13 to his family reunion, and having your girlfriend meet your family can be tough, especially when she's the only guest who doesn't speak Spanish!

It's all been leading up to this: Half of the DC Universe vs. Megistus! In ***The Brave and the Bold #12*** by *Mark Waid, Jerry Ordway, & Bob Wiacek*, Superman, Supergirl, Green Lantern, Flash and a host of others fight to stop the alchemist pulling the strings since the beginning of the series. But will the combined powers of these heroes be enough to stop what has already begun?

Countdown to Final Crisis reaches its dramatic conclusion in April as the DCU struggles to deal with the impact of the Great Disaster as the future of their world is threatened.

After facing Trigon you'd think Raven could face any threat, but nothing has prepared her for high school cliques and bowling! Watch her struggle against both in ***DC Special: Raven #2*** by *Marv Wolfman, Damion Scott, & Robert Campanella.*

The Earth is being torn apart. So when DC Universe heroes begin appearing in the WildStorm Universe, it seems at first they might be the answer to all the problems. Until it becomes clear that they might just be the *reason* for all the problems. And the Justice League of America doesn't know how they got here...or how to get back! But *Keith Giffen, Lee Garbett, Trevor Scott* know all... and they'll reveal it in ***DC/WildStorm: DreamWar***, a six-part miniseries.

Death of the New Gods comes to an end in April as *Jim Starlin* reveals the final fates of Apokolips, New Genesis, Darkseid, Orion and all of the New Gods—and he shows how it all ties in to ***Countdown***.

Pete Woods comes on board as series artist with ***Infinity Inc #8***, joining writer *Peter Milligan* for the three-part "The Bogeyman." Steel springs an unwelcome surprise or two on the Infinity kids — including costumes and a new addition! But it's one thing to dress like a team, and quite another to function as one.

Geoff Johns, Alex Ross, Dale Eaglesham, & Ruy Jose continue"Thy Kingdom Come" in ***Justice Society of America #15***. The cracks begin to show within the Justice Society as the "Heartbreak Slayer" stands revealed. Now, the Justice Society are face-to-face with an ancient being whose mission to help the world surpasses even their own.

Girl trouble doesn't even begin to describe Robin's situation when he finds himself caught between Violet and Spoiler in ***Robin #173*** by *Chuck Dixon, Chris Batista, & Cam Smith.* Meanwhile, the Penguin's net is getting tighter, and all three of them might find themselves sleeping with the fishes...if another supermafioso on the scene doesn't get to them first!

Back from the future, Supergirl is ready to keep her impossible promise, despite the horrors of the world she just left. And to bring a miracle to life, she must enlist the aid of the last DCU hero you ever expected to see again — one who's supposed to be dead! Find out who it is in ***Supergirl #28*** by *Kelley Puckett, Drew Johnson, & Ray Snyder.*

Making room in his schedule for a major project he and *Mark Bagley* are launching this summer, *Kurt Busiek* says farewell as the writer of ***Superman*** with the oversized #675,

illustrated by *Renato Guedes & Wilson Magalhaes.* The highlight of the issue three-way battle between Superman, Paragon and the forces of Daxam!

In ***Superman/Batman #47***, *Michael Green, Mike Johnson, Shane Davis, & Matt "Batt" Banning* deliver a new team of heroes to battle The Man of Steel and The Dark Knight, known only as The Last Line! They were created as a "last line" of defense against a rogue Superman—and they take no prisoners!

The return of the Tangent Universe continues in ***Tangent: Superman's Reign #2***, as *Dan Jurgens, Ron Marz, Jamal Igle, & Victor Llamas* reveal the fate of the Tangent Joker. And Green Lanterns from not one, but *two* worlds will be needed to shed light on the Tangent Superman's path to dictatorship. Meanwhile, the Tangent world's deadliest fighter risks her life to free her most powerful ally!

Judd Winick, Ian Churchill, & Norm Rapmund launch a new team of Titans in the new ***Titans*** ongoing series. Someone or something is continuing its attack on anyone who's ever been a Titan, including Nightwing, Starfire, Donna Troy, Beast Boy and Raven... and these attacks lay the groundwork for the formation of a new team rising from the ashes of old, dead friends.

DC collected editions include:

- ***52 Aftermath: The Four Horsemen TP***, collecting the six-part miniseries;
- ***All-New Atom: The Hunt for Ray Palmer TP***, collecting ***All-New Atom #s 12-16***;
- ***All Star Batman & Robin, The Boy Wonder Volume One HC***, collecting the quirky comedy by *Frank Miller & Jim Lee*;
- ***Batman: The Joker's Last Laugh TP***, collecting the six-part miniseries;
- ***Batman Vs. Two-Face TP***, collecting some of the best Two-Face-offs from the past sixty years;
- ***Black Adam: The Dark Age TP***, collecting the six-part miniseries;
- ***Checkmate Volume 3: Fall of the Wall TP***, collecting ***Checkmate #s 16-22***;
- ***Countdown to Final Crisis Volume One TP***, collecting ***Countdown #s 51-39***;
- ***Countdown Special: Kamandi, The Last Boy on Earth 80-Page Giant***, reprinting ***Kamandi #s 1, 10 & 29***;
- ***Doom Patrol Archives Volume Five HC***, collecting ***Doom Patrol #s 114-121***;
- ***Green Lantern: No Fear TP***, collecting ***Green Lantern #s 1-6 & Secret Files #1***;
- ***Green Lantern: The Sinestro Corps Volume Two HC***, collecting ***Green Lantern #s 24-25*** and ***Green Lantern Corps #s 16-19***;
- ***Green Lantern: Tales of the Sinestro Corps HC***, collecting ***Green Lantern #s 18-20***, ***Green Lantern Corps Sinestro Corps Special #1***, ***Green Lantern Sinestro Corps Secret Files***, and ***Tales of the Sinestro Corps: Cyborg Superman, Ion, Parallax, & Anti-Monitor***;
- ***Infinity Inc Volume One: Luthor's Monsters TP***, collecting ***Infinity Inc #s 1-5***;
- ***Justice League of America: The Injustice League HC***, collecting ***JLA Wedding Special #1 & Justice League of America #s 13-16***;
- ***Justice Volume One TP***, collecting the first four issues of the *Jim Krueger-Alex Ross-Doug Braithwaite* maxiseries;
- ***Legion of Super-Heroes: 1050 Years in the Future TP***, a fiftieth-anniversary celebration of the first Silver Age teen superteam;
- ***The Question: The Five Books of Blood HC***, collecting the five-issue ***Crime Bible*** mini;
- ***Showcase Presents Green Lantern Volume Three TP***, collecting ***Green Lantern #s 39-59***;
- ***Showcase Presents Haunted Tank Volume Two TP***, collecting Haunted Tank tales from ***G.I. Combat #s 120-157***;
- ***Superman: Last Son HC***, collecting the *Richard Donner-Geoff Johns-Adam Kubert* story arc;
- ***Superman: World of Krypton TP***, collecting various Krypton-focused tales; and
- ***World's Finest Deluxe Edition HC***, collecting the *Dave Gibbons-Steve Rude* miniseries.

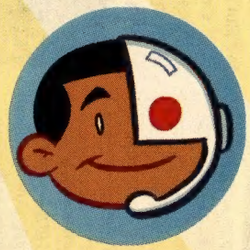
Coming Comics: Wildstorm/ DC in April

Brian K. Vaughan, Tony Harris, & Jim Clark kick off a new election-themed storyline in ***Ex Machina #36*** as a new masked adventurer threatens to derail the upcoming Republican National Convention.

The Paladins, WildStorm's seminal superhuman heroes, find their days start like any other — capturing arch-criminals, thwarting alien invaders, and helping little old ladies

Continued on page 6

TEEN TITANS™



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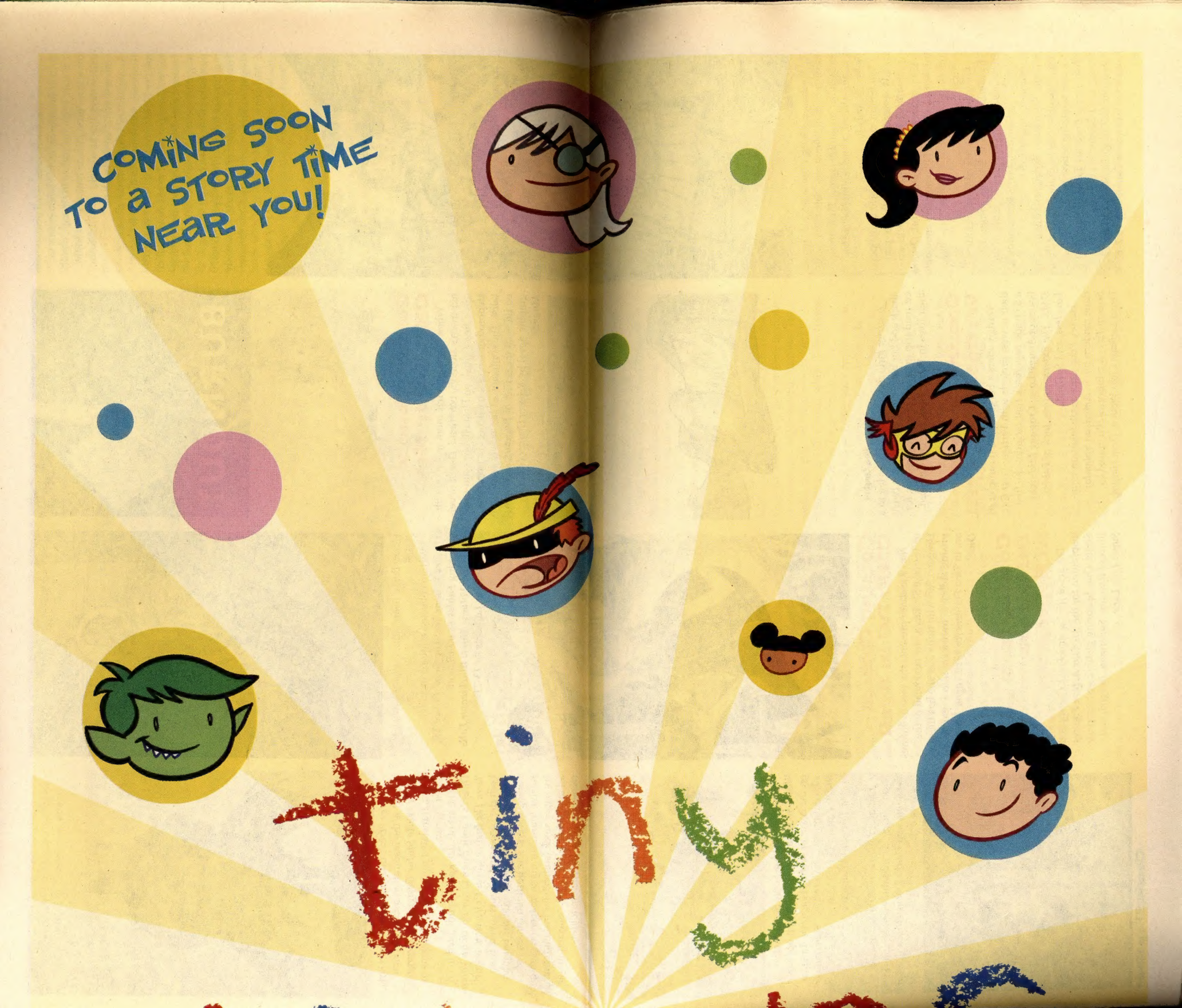
COMING SOON
TO a STORY TIME
NEAR YOU!
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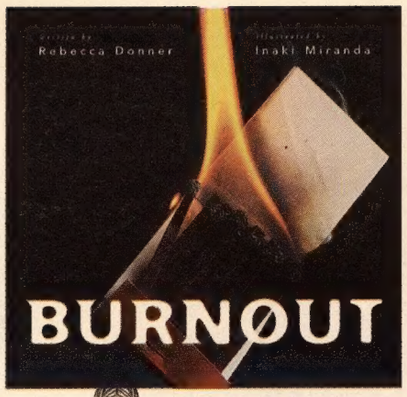
navigate crosstown traffic — all before coffee at their favorite diner. But when events in The City begin to escalate in strange, deadly directions, all signs and omens point to the end of days. But how could the WildStorm Universe stand on the brink of Armageddon? Why aren't the all-seeing Authority watching over things? Where is mighty Majestic to save the day? Wouldn't the Wildcats put an end to any final conflict before it even began? And how does a long-forgotten face from WildStorm's troubled past hold all the answers to preventing a nightmarish future of Biblical proportions? Find out in ***Number of the Beast***, a biweekly six-part series by *Scott Beatty, Chris Sprouse, & Karl Story.*

An abused young woman decides to use the local urban legends to "solve" the problems in her life lin ***Friday the 13th: Abuser and the Abused***, a oneshot by *Joshua Hale Fialkov & Andy B.*

WildStorm revisits the world of the popular CW series ***Supernatural*** in the six-part ***Supernatural: Rising Son***, which picks up several years after the ***Supernatural: Origins*** miniseries, with the boys now old enough to join their father on his cross-country "hunting trips."

Wildstorm collected editions include:

- ***Ex Machina Deluxe Edition Volume One HC***, collecting the first eleven issues of the *Brian K. Vaughan-Tony Harris* series, adding numerous bonus features;
- ***Heroes SC***, a trade paperback edition of the collection of stories set in the world of the popular television series;
- ***Tom Strong Book Six TP***, collecting ***Tom Strong #s 31-36***; and
- ***Welcome to Tranquility Volume Two TP***, collecting ***Welcome to Tranquility #s 7-12***.



Coming Comics— CMX/DC in May

When Danni and her mom move in with her mom's alcoholic boyfriend, Danni develops a fierce crush on Haskell, her soon-to-be stepbrother who's a hardcore environmentalist. The confusion of her newly-complicated life is at the center of ***Burnout***, an original graphic novel by *Rebecca Donner & Inaki Miranda.*

Ross Campbell

A surfer girl who recently lost her leg to a shark and her best friend embark on a twisted road trip in search of a new direction for their lives in ***Water Baby***, by *Ross Campbell.*

Coming Comics— Vertigo/DC in April

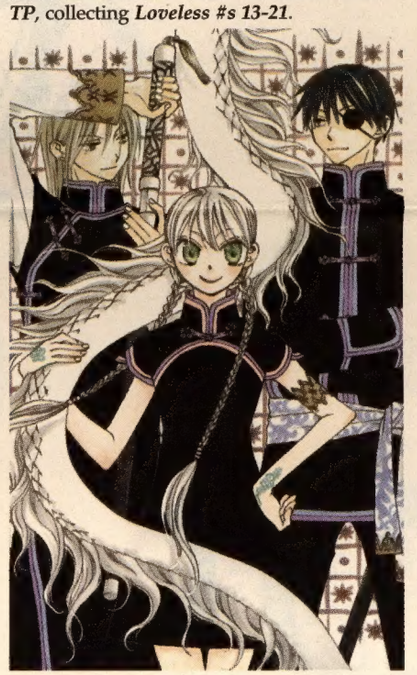
Vertigo offers a bargain-priced sampler of their newest projects with ***Vertigo: First Cut***, a $5 trade paperback that includes the first issues of ***Army@Love, Crossing Midnight, DMZ, The Exterminators, Jack of Fables, Loveless***, and ***Scalped***.

Harvey Pekar once again takes on mundane modern life in ***American Splendor Season Two***, a miniseries illustrated by *David Lapham, Chris Weston, Dean Haspiel,*

Hilary Barta, John Lucas, Zachary Baldus, & Ed Piskor.

Vertigo collected editions include:

- ***Fables Volume Ten: The Good Prince TP***, collecting ***Fables #s 60-69***; and
- ***Loveless Volume Three: Blackwater Falls TP***, collecting ***Loveless #s 13-21***.

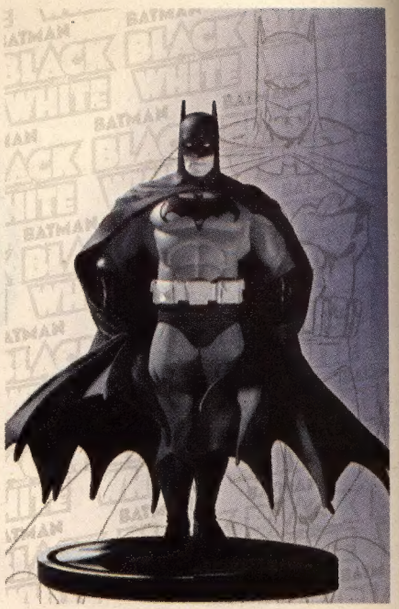


Coming Comics— CMX/DC in April

Nari Kusakawa presents the misadventures of Teenage Shakuya, the next head of the Dragon Clan who finds that she has the surprising ability to transform into a real dragon, in ***Two Flowers for the Dragon Volume One***.

Coming from DC Direct in September

The art of *Jim Lee* and *Frank Quitely* is the inspiration for the ***All Star Action Figures Series One***, featuring distinctive interpretations of ***Batman, Superman, Batgirl***, and ***Super Lois Lane***.



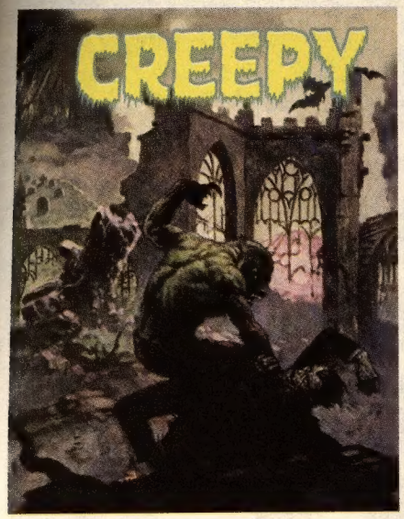
George Pérez's interpretation of the Dark Knight is the inspiration for the ***Batman Black White Statue Designed by George Pérez***, translated into three dimensions by *Karen Palinko.*

The art of *Alex Ross* is spotlighted in DC Direct's ***Comic Book Cover Portfolio Volume Two: The Justice Cover Collection***, featuring both the heroes and villains covers from ***Justice #s 1 & 12***, along with the ten intervening covers. The portfolio consists of twelve four-color matte images on high-quality paper stock (suitable for instant framing), all approximately 9" x 14", collected in one, two-color 10" x 15" custom folders.

The JLA Build-a-Scene Statue series, based on the art of *Ed Benes* as it appeared on the cover of ***Justice League of America #7***, continues with ***Part Two: Superman & Black Canary*** (which also includes the torso of ***Red Tornado***), sculpted by *Alterton Bizarre.*

Sculptor *Mike Locasio* translates *Mark Buckingham's* art into three dimensions in the ***Sandman and Death Twentieth Anniversary Bookend Set***.

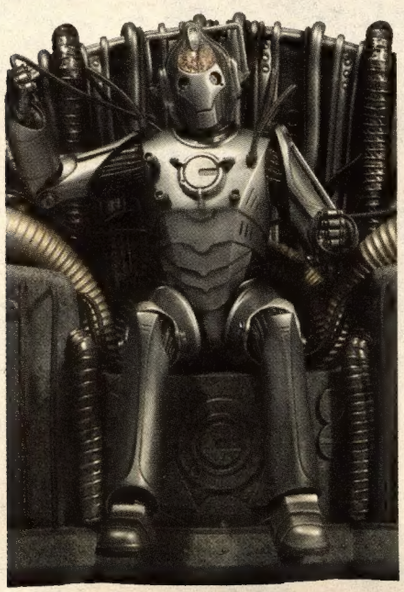
Women of the DC Universe Series 2, based on the art of *Terry Dodson*, continues in September with the ***Catwoman Bust***, sculpted by *Jack Mathews*.

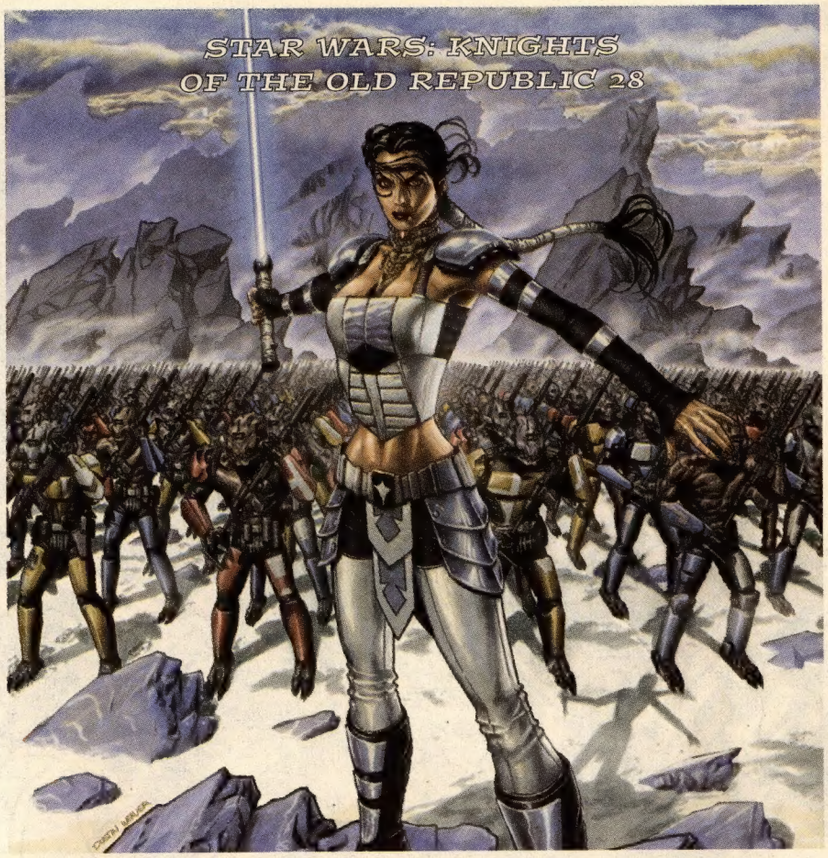


Coming Comics: Dark Horse in April

In a time when superheroes were moving into Silver Age prominence, *Jim Warren* made comics history by bucking the trend and taking comics back to the field's EC glory days in a pair of horror magazines: ***Creepy*** and ***Eerie***. In the pages of these black and white magazines, Warren presented edgy horror tales by some of the field's top talents, including *Al Williamson, Frank Frazetta, Reed Crandall, Wally Wood, Steve Ditko, Neal Adams, Archie Goodwin, Joe Orlando,* and *Alex Toth*. This spring, Dark Horse launches a line of deluxe hardcovers reprinting those classic magazines, beginning with ***Creepy Archives Volume One***, a 232-page hardcover collecting the first five issues of Warren's flagship title, presented in the magazine's original size.

Weta Collectibles and Dark Horse kick off their ***Doctor Who*** statue line this spring. Based on the hit BBC series, the line begins with the ***Dalek's Destruction Statue***, inspired by the episode "Dalek" starring *Christopher Eccleston*; and the ***CyberController Statue***, based on the episode "Age of Steel" starring *David Tennant*.





Writer/artist *Simone Lia* presents a clever all-ages tale of anthropomorphic adventure in ***Fluffy***, a 192-page graphic novel presenting the story of a young rabbit, his human daddy, and a Sicilian misadventure.

Kei and Masara were killed by a subway train while saving the life of a drunken bum... but they're somehow still alive, thanks to an alien orb called Gantz... an orb that intends to make them play games of death, hunting odd aliens along with a group of people who have met similarly tragic semi-ends. See what happens next in ***Gantz Volume One*** by *Hiroya Oku*.

Tim Biskup presents a hundred entirely new compositions in the diminutive ***Jackson 500 Volume Four***, the penultimate volume in the five-volume series.

Kotobukiya continues its line of bounty hunter figures with the ***Kotobukiya Star Wars Bounty Hunter Series IG-88 Vinyl Model Kit***. IG-88 is a tall, spindly humanoid droid completely loaded with a deadly gas dispenser, a flamethrower, a sonic stunner, a pulse cannon and a neural inhibitor projectile launcher. Each of the Bounty Hunters includes a special bonus part—collect 'em all and create a full-size Darth Vader statue!

Dark Horse is collaborating with Mind Style to produce a series of upscale high-quality figures, including ***Jim Henson's Dark Crystal uRac Statue, Jim Henson's Dark Crystal Landstrider Statue, Frank Cho's Liberty Meadows Keychain Trading Figures*** (a six-figure series offered in a "blind box" assortment), and ***Brom's Stickmen Series One: Girl*** and ***Mini Alien***.

The Monsters of Hellboy II explores the beastly beings that haunt the second ***Hellboy*** film; the 168-page volume is created by *Guillermo del Toro, Mike Mignola, Sergio Sandoval, & Francisco Ruiz Velasco*.

Joe R. Lansdale puts a new spin on a classic horror tale by *Robert E. Howard* in the four-part ***Pigeons from Hell***, illustrated by *Nathan Fox*. Set in the deep south, Pigeons tells the story of a damned house with a wicked past whose vile form casts a shadow of death on all who dare to enter. At dusk, as the sun slumps below the horizon, scores of pigeons can be seen flocking from the house in waning sunlight. The pigeons, they say, are the souls of the damned escaping from the very bowels of Hell itself.

Dark Horse continues their ***Robert E. Howard's Conan: The Frazetta Cover Series*** with a second issue, featuring ***The God in the Bowl*** by *Kurt Busiek & Cary Nord*, along with the *Frank Frazetta* cover painting originally done for Lancer Books in the 1960s.

The ***Samurai Champloo Mini-Bust*** line continues with the second offering, ***Fuu***.

Serenity: Better Days #2 follows follows Mal and his rag-tag crew on a short-lived vacation, where they explore their fantasies and confront long-forgotten enemies. The series reunites *Joss Whedon* with *Brett Matthews & Will Conrad*, while *Adam Hughes* joins the team for covers.

Vector, the epic ***Star Wars*** crossover, continues in ***Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic #28***. Nearly overwhelmed by an ancient evil run rampant, fugitive Padawan Zayne Carrick, the con-artist Gryph, and the Jedi Celeste Morne have made a choice of cosmic significance, its consequences reshaping not only the course of their lives, but the fate of the entire galaxy!

Hideyuki Kikuchi & Yoshitaka Amano offer a look at post-apocalyptic America in ***Wind Named Amnesia/Invader Summer***, a novel with interior illos by Amano.

Dark Horse collected editions include:

- ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer Volume Two: No Future For You***, a trade paperback collection of ***Buffy #s 6-10*** by *Brian K. Vaughan, Joss Whedon, Georges Jeanty*, and others;
- ***Conan: Born on the Battlefield***, a trade collection of the coming-of-age tales by *Kurt Busiek & Greg Ruth* that originally appeared in ***Conan #s 8, 15, 23, 32, 45, & 46***;
- ***Fear Agent: Hatchet Job Volume Four***, a trade paperback collecting ***Fear Agent #s 13-16***;
- ***Grendel: God and the Devil***, a 320-page trade paperback collecting the maxiseries by *Matt Wagner, John K. Snyder III, Tim Sale, Jay Geldhof, Bernie Mireault, & Jeromy Cox*;
- ***Indiana Jones Omnibus Volume Two***, a hefty compendium collecting ***Indiana Jones & the Golden Fleece #s 1-2, Indiana Jones & the Shrine of the Sea Devil, Indiana Jones & the Iron Phoenix #s 1-4, Indiana Jones & the Spear of Destiny #s 1-4***, and ***Indiana Jones & the Sargasso Pirates #s 1-4***;
- ***Lobster Johnson: Iron Prometheus Volume One***, a trade collection of the *Mike Mignola-Jason Armstrong* miniseries;
- ***Predator Omnibus Volume Three***, featuring 344 pages of long-unavailable Dark Horse Predator tales;
- ***Star Wars: Legacy Volume Three***, a trade paperback collecting ***Star Wars: Legacy #s 14-19***; and
- ***Star Wars Omnibus: Droids***, a standalone book featuring every ***Droids*** story published by Dark Horse, along with a previously-unreleased story plotted by ***C-3PO's*** *Anthony Daniels* himself, in one hefty 440-page volume.

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